6334 W. 80th St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90045
October 13, 1971

Mr. Douglas Liesz, Regional Forester
United States Forest Service
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94111

Dear Mr. Liesz,

We recently heard from Mr. Vernet Smith regarding his conversation with you on October 6 concerning the problems at Mineral King. We appreciate your interest.

Of course, we were pleased to hear that we will be able to post material regarding the proposed plans for Mineral King on the bulletin board there. It is also encouraging to hear that you plan to look into the parking situation.

Having been out of the country during 1970, we were truly discouraged by the paradoxical situation we found at Mineral King this past summer, from the destruction of the picturesque old Davis cabin, which should have been preserved as part of the history of the area, to the sharply reduced camping and parking facilities, at a time when there is increasing need for such facilities.

In spite of a larger staff of rangers, the number of camping spaces had been sharply curtailed, with no camping allowed in the upper part of the valley, and with several other former camps reserved only for picnicing, although this isolated area does not lend itself to picnicing. Parking space was also very limited, with "no parking" signs posted at nearly every available spot, causing additional frustration and a proliferation of signs in the area.

We feel the staff's time would be put to better use, and the forest more fully enjoyed and appreciated if more, rather than fewer camping and parking spaces were developed. It would seem that the arbitrary limitation of space, when ample space is actually available would be troublesome to the public and to the Forest Service personnel alike. We do hope these problems can be resolved before next summer. We feel as many campers as possible should be able to enjoy the beauty of Mineral King.

Again let us express our appreciation of your interest. We have enjoyed Mineral King for many years, and as our family has grown older, we have enjoyed back-packing in the area. We would be pleased to have you visit us when you are at Mineral King.

Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Koch

2623.009.0069